The Government have reviewed the situation arising out of a series of such blasts in the capital during the year. It has been decided to improve the intelligence collection through better coordinaiton between police and intelligence agencies and also to seek closer public participation in detecting such bombs and apprehending the culprits.

Rise in crime rate in R.K. Puram

64. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rising crime rate in various sectors of R.K. Puram, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, sector-wise;

(c) the details of the police assistance booths, sector-wise, at present functioning in R.K. Puram, New Delhi;

(d) the sectors in R.K. Puram still wituhout such police assistance booths; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to provide police assistance booths in those remaining sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) There has been a slight increase in the crime rate in R.K. Puram area under the heads of snatching, burglary, pick-pocketing, servant-theft, accidents, etc. However, the crime rate under the heads of decoity, attempt to murder, robbery, motor vehicle theft, hurts, etc, has registered a decline. The sector-wise details are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 182 Annexure No. 2]

(c) and (d) There is no polic assistance booth in any of the sectors of R.K. Puram and the area is covered by the beat patrolling-PCR Vans. In addition, there is a police post located in Sector IV.

(e) The existing police arrangements are considered adequate for the present.

Manipulation of Evidence by CFSl Officials

65. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem under the caption 'Forensic experts shady acts detected' which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 27th August, 1997;

(b) whether several cases of manipulaiton of scientific evidence by Central forensic Science Laboratory Officials have been detected by Central Bureau of Investigation and the agency has compiled a list of officers of CFSL who have allegedly tampered with evidence and manipulated reports; and

(c) if so, the action taken against guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered five cases against seven officials of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory of the Central Bureau of Investigation on the allegations of manipulation of scientific evidence.

(c) Two officials are facing trial in the courts, departmental proceedings have been initiated against three officials, case against one officer is under investigation and in the case of one official no action could be taken for want of evidence.

Pending applications of freedom fighters pensions

66. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of freedom fighters' pension cases pending for more than five years, State-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to dispose of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) According to the information available, no application for grant of freedom fighters's Pension is pending with the Government for more than five years.

(b) Aggrieved with the decision of the Central Government in rejecting their applications for grant of pension, the applicants keep on submitting representations/review petitions for reconsideration of their cases. Such cases are considered, if the applicants furnish additional information/documentary evidence in support of their claim. Further, the Government has set up a Special Audit Team (SAT) under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary in-charge of the Freedom Fighters Division with two prominent freedom fighters as Members; for assisting the Government in expeditious disposal of pending cases.

Steps to curb bomb blasts in capital

67. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken/ contemplated steps to curb the recent spurt in incidents of bomb explosions in the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have decided to accede to Delhi Government's demand for entrusting police to the Delhi Government for betterment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) The situation arising out of series of bomb blasts in the National Capital during the current year has been reviewed and it has been decided that there is a need to improve the intelligence gathering system through a better coordination between police and intelligence agencies and also to seek closer public participation in detecting such bombs and apprehending the culprits.

(c) In accordance with the existing Constitutional framework, the matters relating to "police" and "public order" in the National Capital Territory do not fall within the pruview of the Legislative Assembly of Delhi.

Hostages kidnapped in Kashmir and Assam

68. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the latest information with Government in respect of the whereabouts of the four westerners kidnapped and kept as hostages by militants in Kashmir about two years back and Sanjay Ghosh abducted sometime back in Assam by ULFA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): Government have no confirmed information about the precise whereabouts or condition, of the 4 foreign nationals abducted from Kashmir Valley in July 1995, who continue to remain untraced despite efforts.

In the case of Sanjay Ghosh abducted in Assam in July 1997, though there have been some reports about his death, but in the absence of any final proof it is not possible to declare him dead in the legal sense. A CBI enquiry has been ordered into the matter and investigation is going on.

Central legislation to check up militancy

69. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Mnister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the latest game plan of Pakistan's intelligence agency (ISI) to launch a fresh offensive to step up militancy in J&K, Punjab, Delhi and adjoining States besides making efforts to step up smuggling of narcotics and also to flood Indian markets with fake currency, as